

## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A plastic bag support for retaining a plastic bag to assist with cleaning and drying thereof, comprising:

5                   at least two vertically extending bag supporting and restraining straps, each having  
                    an indeterminate length resilient body and a bag retainer;  
                    at least one of said at least two vertically extending bag supporting and restraining  
                    straps having a coupling member suitable for engaging an indeterminate  
                    length body and coupling said at least one of said at least two vertically  
10                   extending bag supporting and restraining straps to an indeterminate length  
                    body of another of said at least two vertically extending bag supporting and  
                    restraining straps at a coupling location that is adjustable through a range of  
                    positions; and  
                    a means for engaging a dishwasher rack.

- 15       2. The plastic bag support of claim 1, wherein said bag retainer further comprises a bag  
          retaining clip and at least one counter-facing protrusion opposed to said bag retaining clip.

3. The plastic bag support of claim 2, wherein said bag retaining clip and said at least one  
counter-facing protrusion each further comprise a first sloping surface active upon bag  
insertion, and a second sloping surface active upon bag removal that is more steeply sloped

than said first sloping surface.

4. The plastic bag support of claim 3, wherein said second sloping surface is further comprised by a face which extends substantially transverse to said indeterminate length.

5. The plastic bag support of claim 1, further comprising:

5                   dimples in a one of said at least two vertically extending bag supporting and  
                          restraining straps; and  
                          mating protruding bumps in a second one of said at least two vertically extending  
                          bag supporting and restraining straps;  
                          said bumps and dimples cooperative when mated to produce resistance to relative  
10                   motion between said one and said second one of said at least two vertically  
                          extending bag supporting and restraining straps.

6. The plastic bag support of claim 5, further comprising:

                          dimples on at least two surfaces in each one of said at least two vertically extending  
                          bag supporting and restraining straps; and  
15                   mating protruding bumps on at least two surfaces in each one of said at least two  
                          vertically extending bag supporting and restraining straps;  
                          said bumps and dimples cooperative when mated to produce resistance to relative  
                          motion between said one and said second one of said at least two vertically  
                          extending bag supporting and restraining straps.

7. The plastic bag support of claim 1, wherein said coupling member further comprises two resilient opposed members between which said another of said at least two vertically extending bag supporting and restraining straps is received through resilient deformation.
8. The plastic bag support of claim 7, wherein said two resilient opposed members further  
5 comprise “L” shaped arms protruding from said at least one of said at least two vertically extending bag supporting and restraining straps.
9. The plastic bag support of claim 1, further comprising at least one base ring strap formed into a generally circular configuration for supporting said at least two vertically extending straps.
10. The plastic bag support of claim 9, wherein said at least two vertically extending straps each  
10 further comprise a base ring engaging slot which encircles said at least one base ring strap.
11. The plastic bag support of claim 10, wherein said base ring engaging slot and said at least one base ring strap interfere to maintain said at least two vertically extending straps in a generally vertical orientation.
12. The plastic bag support of claim 1, wherein each of said at least two vertically extending bag  
15 supporting and restraining straps further comprise a base member having an anchor which is adapted to be removably affixed to a dishwasher rack.
13. In combination, a plastic bag, a dishwasher rack, and a bag holder having at least two

vertically extending flexible and resilient straps serving to support said bag and having a releasable attachment to said dishwasher rack, said at least two vertically extending flexible and resilient straps comprising a coupling member coupling said at least two vertically extending flexible and resilient straps together at a coupling location that is adjustable through a range of positions to vary a combined length of said at least two vertically extending flexible and resilient straps.

14. The combination plastic bag, dishwasher rack, and bag holder of claim 13, wherein said bag holder releasable attachment further comprises a bag retaining clip and two counter-facing protrusions opposed to and adjacent about said bag retaining clip.

15. The combination plastic bag, dishwasher rack, and bag holder of claim 14, wherein said bag retaining clip and said two counter-facing protrusion each further comprise a first sloping surface active upon bag insertion, and a second sloping surface active upon bag removal that is more steeply sloped than said first sloping surface.

16. The combination plastic bag, dishwasher rack, and bag holder of claim 13, further comprising:

dimples in a one of said at least two vertically extending flexible and resilient straps;

and

matching protruding bumps in a second one of said at least two vertically extending flexible and resilient straps;

said bumps and dimples cooperative when mated to produce resistance to relative

motion between said one and said second one of said at least two vertically  
extending flexible and resilient straps.

17. The combination plastic bag, dishwasher rack, and bag holder of claim 13, wherein each of  
said at least two vertically extending flexible and resilient straps further comprise a base  
member having an anchor which is adapted to be removably affixed to a dishwasher rack.

18. The combination plastic bag, dishwasher rack, and bag holder of claim 17, wherein said  
anchor further comprises a resilient keyhole-shaped opening in said base member.

19. A method of washing a plastic bag in an automatic dishwasher, comprising the steps of:

aligning a first generally linear bag supporting and restraining strap with a second  
generally linear bag supporting and restraining strap;

pressing said aligned first generally linear bag supporting and restraining strap  
transversely to a longitudinal axis against said second bag supporting and  
restraining strap to engage an operatively stable coupling therebetween;

folding said first and second bag supporting and restraining straps into a loop;  
engaging said coupled and folded first and second bag supporting and restraining  
straps with said automatic dishwasher;

sliding said first bag supporting and restraining strap relative to said second bag  
supporting and restraining strap to adjust a combined length to coincide with  
an interior opening in said plastic bag; and

affixing said plastic bag to said coupled first and second bag supporting and  
restraining straps.